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MEXICO AND OBREGON

by

CHESTER W. HANSEN

A STATEMENT OF FACT
WITH REGARD TO EXISTING CONDITIONS IN
MEXICO AND POLICY OF THE
PRESENT ADMINISTRATION

OCTOBER, 1921

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INTRODUCTION

The following article is written with the hope of the author that the facts therein contained will contribute, in a small measure at least, to clarify the pitiful lack of understanding which seems so prevalent among the people of the United States as to Mexico and all things Mexican—caused largely by inspired anti-Mexican propaganda and sensational journalism deliberately intended to make for dissension between two peoples whose relationship should be that of brothers.

He believes, in common with hundreds of other Americans who have had the opportunity to observe at first hand, that the present Mexican Administration is fully able to cope with the situation south of the Rio Grande, and that their accomplishments to date justify, yes, make it the imperative duty of, our country to accept their proffered hand of friendship.

CHESTER W. HANSEN.

MEXICO AND OBREGON

ONE year and five months ago, May, 1920, the present administration came into power in Mexico. General Obregon, though always considered the moving spirit of the new government, refused to assume the role of Executive until requested to do so by the people at their duly called and regulated election. Adolpho de la Huerta, therefore, after being formally elected by Congress, took the oath as provisional president and functioned in that capacity until the inauguration of Obregon in December, 1920, after his election by an overwhelming majority on September 8, 1920. At this election military force was entirely absent and not one single instance of disorder at the polls was reported. General Obregon received more than 1,000,000 votes. Considering the population of Mexico (16,000,000), one person in every 16 cast a ballot for him. Ex-President Wilson in 1912 received slightly over six million popular votes, or slightly less than one for each 18 of population.

This comparison conclusively shows that his election expressed the will of **all of the people,** and was not the mock affair which so many agencies would have us believe.

The United States elections of 1916 and 1920 can hardly be used for comparative purposes because of women's suffrage, which is not applicable to Mexico.

President Obregon laid down a specific course to be pursued. These policies speak for themselves, and the wisdom and justice of them cannot, nor have they ever been questioned. Their execution and the sincerity of the promulgators have been questioned. Therefore, I submit a few extracts of policy, together with accomplishments to date, so that the reader may himself judge the spirit prompting the actions of the administration and their sincerity of purpose.

Permit me to quote from a statement by President Obregon of June 26, 1921, to the New York World:

> "The States of Texas, Arizona and California, acting independently and without the

slightest inspiration, have made official requests upon Washington for resumption of formal relations that will permit proper and complete expressions of friendship between Mexico and the United States. The action of these States, so intimately in contact with my country, tells its own story of peace and order along the Border at the moment of writing."

NOTE.—Since above was written, the States of Michigan, Illinois and Oklahoma, as well as the Chambers of Commerce of the cities of St. Louis, Los Angeles, San Francisco and others have without inspiration done likewise. This action was taken after thorough personal investigation and first-hand observation by their representative members on various trade trips through Mexico.

"Today there is not a single armed force in the field against the Federal authority."

NOTE.—This condition has continuously prevailed to date. Even the ever rebellious Yaqui Indian, who has been in a state of steady revolt since the time of the Spanish Conquest, throughout the rule of the Great Juarez and the Iron Diaz, has laid down his weapons of war and turned, contented, to peaceful constructive pursuits.

"Reconciliation is our fixed policy. We mean to end every hate as far as possible and heal every division."

"One of the first things that the revolution did was to call in every history that taught the youth of our country to hate the United States and Spain."

NOTE.—Though handicapped by lack of funds, hundreds of schools, with volunteer corps of instructors, have been established and maintained throughout even the remotest sections of the Republic as a nucleus of the Educational System to come.

Arrangements are practically complete for interchange of scholarships with American Universities and interchange of professors as well. This interchange of students and professors can not help but form a solid foundation for continued friendship, based upon actual knowledge secured through continued residence and study in the respective countries. President Obregon has already made liberal financial contribution for the furthering of this cause through the Mexican-American Scholarship Foundation.

"The truest test of peace and order, however, is to be found in our army figures. On June 10, 1920, the army establishment of Mexico numbered 23,767 officers and 105,066 men. Today (June 26, 1921) the army numbers 16,784 officers and 77,289 men, an annual saving of $36,500,000. This is not the end by any means."

NOTE.—Since the above was written the army has been still further reduced, and announcement made of continued further reductions.

"Instead of carrying the paper money issues as a continuing internal obligation, with all of the disastrous results which that would have meant, we abolished the issuance of currency, retired the issues in circulation quickly and on as just a basis as possible and placed business on a gold basis * * * our internal debt has been saved from a new bur-

den and we are in a better position to take care of our external obligations."

NOTE.—Today, the entire commerce of Mexico, both internal and external, is conducted on a gold basis—nothing but metal medium is in circulation. Billions of dollars' worth of currency—of many issues and doubtful value—were retired in favor of a gold standard.

"It is not possible to turn in a day to the instant and satisfactory settlement of complicated problems and unknown claims throughout the revolution. **However, we stated repeatedly that Mexico would not repudiate any just obligations. We have always paid our debts. We always will pay our debts.** We have seen a loan of $20,000,000 received in 1824, changed magically into a debt of more than $100,000,000. We have seen Maximillian sign an obligation for $40,000,000 in return for a loan of $20,000,000. We have seen Miramon, the counter revolutionist, sign a note for $15,000,000 in return for a loan of $750,000. Yet not once, even under these outrageous burdens, have we ever advanced the idea of repudiation. **Throughout the revolution, we stated repeatedly that Mexico would meet every just obligation without evasion. It is a promise that will be kept to the letter.** Even now we are planning the machinery that will settle all claims in accordance with the principle laid down by international law. Nor should it be forgotten, that as late as six months

ago, we urged our creditors to send a committee to Mexico for conferences in the interest of fair and honest settlements. Strangely enough, acceptance of the frank invitation has been prevented by various governmental pressure, and to date Mexico has not been able to secure these face to face meetings that are her desire."

NOTE.—Mr. Thomas W. Lamont, a representative of the International Committee of Bankers on Mexico, is now in that country, in response to a further invitation from the Mexican Government. To date no action has been taken by our Government in regard to participation in conferences invited by Obregon to discuss ways and means of arriving at equitable adjustment of claims. It can be readily conceived that Americans fleeing Mexico at the instance and persuasion of our Government, who later filed claims with our State Department for damages caused by confiscation, etc., during the revolution, would place their damages at a maximum, and such claims are certainly subject to adjustment.

"Foreign capital will be invited and given every justice * * *. Every private right acquired prior to May 1st, 1917, when the new constitution was adopted, will be accepted and fully protected. **The famous Article 27, one section of which declares the nation's ownership of subsoil rights in petroleum, will never be given retroactive effect, nor has it ever been given retroactive effect.** * * *.

"Here are the figures for exportation of Mexican oil year by year since 1917:

1917	42,545,852	Bbls.
1918	51,768,110	"
1919	77,703,289	"
1920	151,058,257	"
1921 (Jan. to May inclusive)..	76,493,564	"
1921 probable production..	190,000,000	"

"Does this steady increase indicate that the Mexican Government has been placing any obstacles in the way of development?"

NOTE.—August 30th the Supreme Court of the United States of Mexico rendered a decision to the effect that Article 27 could not be construed retroactively.

"As for recent tax increases, the necessity should be clear to all. Every country in the world has had to increase their taxes in order to meet increased expenses. In addition, Mexico is facing delinquent obligations that must be met. **The increase in petroleum, for instance, is for specific application to our foreign debt. To this purpose and this purpose alone, the entire proceeds of the tax will be devoted. I stated this clearly in the decree that established the tax and there will be no departure from it.** To call the tax, confiscation, as the oil group is doing, is absurd * * * for even while earning enormous dividends, out of the oil taken from Mexican wells, it is still unwilling for Mexico to receive even an appreciable share of its natural

wealth, as an aid in meeting the just demands of the holders of our foreign obligations. It is these dividends that give the best answer to the cry of confiscatory taxation. The net profits of the Mexican Petroleum Company in 1920, after depreciation and taxes, were $9,773,898. (This on a capitalization of $48,000,000.) Its interlocked associate, the Pan American Petroleum & Transport Company, declared net profits of $12,987,757, in 1920, after deducting interest charges, taxes and contingencies. The British American Petroleum Company, another rich subsidiary formed in order to avoid the scandal of lumped earnings, showed a profit of $5,000,000 in 1920. It will thus be seen that the Doheny group pumped close to $28,000,000 in net profits out of the soil of Mexico in the single year of 1920."

NOTE.—During August, 1921, the American group of oil producers of Mexico, represented by W. C. Teagle, President of the Standard Oil Company; E. L. Doheny, President Mexican Petroleum Company; H. F. Sinclair, President Sinclair Oil Company; J. W. Van Dyke, President Atlantic Refining Company, and Amos L. Beatty, President Texas Company, attended a series of conferences with officials of the Mexican Government, the result of which was the announcement by the American Committee that a satisfactory taxation agreement had been reached, and they began the exportation of oil the day following. The text of this agreement has not as yet been made public. A few days later, the Mexican Petroleum Company declared its regular quarterly dividend (12% annually) which throughout the entire

period of the taxation controversy had been neither postponed nor reduced.

It would be exceedingly difficult for anyone to elaborate on the above. The policies speak for themselves and the accomplishments to date sustain them sufficiently to compel the confidence of the world in the assurance that they will be carried out to their fullest limit.

I do, however, wish to call the attention of the reader to a few facts which reflect the success of the policies of the present administration during the short period in which they have been in power.

The Government of Mexico took over the railroads during time of stress in much the same manner that the United States took over our railways during the recent war. These are being rapidly returned to their owners, but only as they are restored to their normal state. As to the wisdom of this policy we need look no further than the chaotic condition in which we find our railroads today, and the hundreds of millions of dollars of claims against our Government because of the conditions surrounding their return to private ownership. One railway

in Mexico has already been returned, the Mexican Railway, a British property extending from Vera Cruz to Mexico City. This was possible because of its small mileage and the fact that it has suffered least. The Southern Pacific Railroad, with its large mileage, was never taken over by the Government. Every cent of railroad revenue is being devoted to reconstruction in a vigorous attempt to restore them to their normal condition. In the past few months $5,000,000 of the Government's own funds have been spent for rolling stock and the day is near at hand when the national lines can be returned to their owners in such shape as to make damage claims fairly simple of ascertainment and adjustment.

When consideration is given to the fact that Mexico has a far greater railroad mileage per capita than either the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, France or Italy, the task which confronted them in the rehabilitation of these lines can more easily be realized.

The following figures prepared by the United States Department of Commerce show the

actual railroad mileage of these countries, for each 10,000 inhabitants:

United States	2.5	Germany	5.8
Italy	3.2	France	8.5
United Kingdom	5.1	Mexico	10.2

Land taxation is being readjusted on a basis which will make the holders of vast acreage bear their just proportion of taxes, and will in itself compel these holders to either subdivide and dispose of, or develop, their holdings. Land banks have been established, and a plan of rural credits is in the process of formation. Colonization schemes are under way and great irrigation projects are being worked out. It is the hope of the administration to, in a short time, double the arable acreage of the nation. The Mexican is at heart an agriculturist. Encouragement and assistance is all that is necessary to make for tremendously increased agricultural development.

The attitude of the Mexican citizen towards the American is one of friendship, spectacular propaganda to the contrary notwithstanding. A few months ago the author communicated with

several hundred leading American business men, in every section of the United States, who had recently visited Mexico. He requested their opinions. Of the hundreds of replies received, not one expressed anything but the strongest feeling that the present administration should be recognized without delay, and were pleasingly surprised at the sincere demonstration of friendship toward the Americans and at what they saw. Extracts from a number of the letters are attached.

Our exports to Mexico have increased from $41,066,775 in 1915 to $131,455,101 in 1919, $143,786,000 in 1920, and **the first seven months of 1921 show exports of $155,699,499, an increase of 61% over the same period in 1920. With one exception Mexico was the only country to whom our exports increased during that period—our total exports showing a decrease of 42%.** Significant of this is the fact that no complaints arising out of our Mexican commerce during that period have been filed with the State Department, while those arising out of trade with other Latin-American countries were considerable.

The national debt of Mexico per capita is by far the lowest of any major country in the world. Note the following comparison:

England	$ 824.78
Italy	396.60
France	1,114.26
Germany	797.57
Canada	290.00
United States	235.96
Mexico	24.34

NOTE.—Above figures taken from Report of International Financial Conference, called by League of Nations at Brussels, July, 1921. Of further importance is the fact that all of Mexico's loans were incurred during a period when low interest rates prevailed. Her interest per capita per annum, therefore, presents even a more striking comparison than the above.

Attached are statements by Samuel M. Vauclain, President, Baldwin Locomotive Works; and Elmer Dover, financier of Tacoma, Washington, and former Secretary of the National Republican Committee. These men are leaders in their lines of endeavor in this country. Their judgment and ability to analyze a situation, as well as their Americanism and honesty of purpose, is most certainly unquestioned. These men have very recently been in Mexico—have seen the existing conditions and unbiasly studied

them. **Their opinions must be given worthy consideration.**

President Obregon and his administration stand squarely on the policies they have established and ask us to judge their ability to carry them out and their sincerity of purpose, by their administration to date.

Mexico asks no quarter, but is keenly sensitive of the good which can only spring from whole-hearted cooperation with this country, and, rising phoenix-like from out the ashes of ten years of chaos and revolution, extends to us the hand of friendship. Shall we accept her offer so sincerely made, or shall we compel her to look across the seas for the friendship which should so rightly come from us—her big brother—whose aims and aspirations are identical?

Statement of

SAMUEL M. VAUCLAIN

To WASHINGTON TIMES

Under date August 26, 1921

The United States should recognize President Obregon as chief executive of Mexico, according to Samuel M. Vauclain, president of the Baldwin Locomotive Works. Mr. Vauclain has traveled extensively in Mexico, and is thoroughly conversant with the problems and situations existing in the various parts of that country.

"I feel that President Obregon is an excellent man," said Mr. Vauclain yesterday.

"Mexico as a country is in excellent condition. The government is good, and the President seems to have the situation well in hand. He has a most excellent character, fine address, is modest, yet forceful. He is anxious to do his best for Mexico, and has a deep sense of respectful admiration for the United States.

"I was so well impressed with him and his subordinates, including the railroad officials,

that I have no hesitation in doing business with them just as I would with firms in the United States.

"Their railroads are in good condition, the roadbeds excellent, in fact, better than many roads in the United States. They are at work all the time improving their roads. I think it would be a great thing for this country if the State Department would consistently recognize Obregon, and I have no doubt that an early determination of this question will be had.

"I think President Obregon is inclined to meet the views of our Government as far as possible. No doubt in the near future a satisfactory understanding will be arrived at permitting his recognition.

"Of course, this is not any of my business. I am president of a locomotive works, while Mr. Hughes is head of the State Department. He knows best what to do, as he seems to be built that way.

"The credit of Mexican railways is O. K. with me—I don't know how it is with others in this country."

Statement by

ELMER DOVER

Financier of Tacoma, Washington and Former Secretary
Republican National Committee

"I have made several trips through Mexico within the present year.

"My observations convince me the Obregon Government is doing all within its power to rehabilitate their country and that their efforts are not only sincere, but are producing the desired results.

"I know President Obregon personally. He is a man of great force and absolute honesty. His attitude of friendship towards the United States is prompted only by sincerity.

"The enormity of the task of rehabilitation is not questioned, but with recognition and moral support of our Government I feel very sure that the present administration is equal to it."

EXTRACTS FROM STATEMENTS OF AMERICAN BUSINESS MEN

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R. H. Baumbach, Manager, Eugene Dietzgen Co., New Orleans

"There is no doubt in my mind but what conditions at present are much better than they have been for many years, and that no stone should be left unturned to bring us in closer relations with our neighboring country, which will surely be to our mutual advantage."

E. J. Krause, President and Treasurer, The Willis Coal & Mining Co., St. Louis, Mo.

"I am strongly of the opinion that our Government should recognize Mexico and should lend them a helping hand and treat the Mexican people as an independent nation, capable of self government, and do everything to promote a better feeling between the two nations."

Harvey W. Page, President, Eastern Engineering Co., Boston, Mass., and Tampico, Mexico

"It goes without saying after living four years in the Republic of Mexico, that I am greatly interested in its welfare. I wish I were able to assist every American in the United States to understand what our relations and responsiblities are to that country, as it is of great vital interest from a standpoint of commercial affairs and also from the standpoint of from 15 to 20 million Mexicans and our own population.

"The writer's opinion is that the United States is not receiving (the general public, I mean) facts, but are receiving opinions, which many times are unfair to both parties and both countries.

"Answering one of your questions, 'Do you think the present Mexican government have accomplished what would be expected?' It is my personal belief that the present Obregon

Government has done wonderfully well, considering the many serious handicaps that they have had to encounter, and should receive every reasonable encouragement from us that can be given them. * * * **It is my opinion that we are causing more trouble in the Republic of Mexico than they could possibly cause themselves."**

W. M. Lampton, President Magnolia Bank, Magnolia, Miss.

"An impression exists in Mexico that the American capitalist who goes to that country has only an ulterior motive, as a mere exploiter. In some measure this may be true. Under the present administration, all this, it seems to me, could be easily corrected. Sensational papers—both in this country and Mexico—are in a large measure responsible for this condition. Their activities should be suppressed."

Frank Wiggins, Secretary, Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce

"I feel quite sure that our party, generally speaking, felt convinced that the future in Mexico depended upon a stable government and that Obregon is the best man to institute this. * * * Steady progress is being made.

"One of the things we discovered was that Mexicans have learned to distrust Americans because of the few who have exploited them and misrepresented their own country. Because of the horrid stories of the past ten years, the average American has come to believe Mexico is a land of thieves and cut-throats. We believe it will take an extended period of fair dealing with the Mexicans to win their confidence."

H. D. McKinnon, Vice-President and Treasurer, The Braun Corporation, Chemicals, Los Angeles, Calif.

"I am very anxious to see pleasant and cordial relations between Mexico and this country, knowing full well that both countries would benefit therefrom. I will be glad to cooperate with you fully—in trying to make for both pleasant relations between the two countries and so counteract some of the sensational journalism that has a tendency to keep the two countries apart."

Extract from Resolution Passed by Board of Directors, San Francisco Chamber of Commerce; Athol McBean, President

"Therefore, be it resolved, That the board of directors of San Francisco Chamber of Commerce favors at the earliest moment compatible with the Government's foreign diplomatic policy, consideration by the Government of the United States of America of the question of extending recognition to the present Government of the Republic of Mexico."

Maynard McFie, President Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce

"Our country has been misled by the impressions that have been given of Mexico for the past ten years. We have heard only the bad side. We should make it our business to learn something of the good side.

"Our own country developed broader ideals and better understanding through its civil strife and was united for the best interests of all. We had first a Washington and then a Lincoln. If Obregon lives up to promise, he will be the Lincoln of Mexico and will proceed with a reconstruction program that will immortalize his administration."

Extract from Resolution Passed by St. Louis Chamber of Commerce

"The present Chief Executive has apparently won the support of most elements—at least he has eliminated a great amount of the distrust and suspicion that finally became so detrimental in other administrations. It is realized that any government established has a colossal task in bringing about peaceful pursuits and uninterrupted commercial intercourse after ten years of turmoil, but, from what we observed, the present official, of all his ten predecessors since Diaz, comes nearer than any of them to embodying the qualifications for this difficult leadership to peace and happiness.

"President Obregon's efforts so far look toward a unity of most of the factions, he seems democratic, and in all his actions pro-American—remembering in this, however, that he has the sovereignty of a nation to maintain.

Report of Committee of Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce After Visit to Mexico

"Mexico has had ten presidents within this period. It is therefore little wonder that there should have been questioning and doubt as to the new regime. President Obregon, however, appears to be the man of the hour in Mexico. He has won the support of all elements, inspiring hope and optimism in the future, where there has been suspicion and distrust.

"For the first time in nine years the country is wholly at peace and has been since the overthrow of President Carranza. **Every railway of the Republic is operating without armored cars or armed guards."**

Ritchie L. Dunn, President, American Biscuit Company, San Francisco, Calif.

"Your letter of the 8th containing a very concise and clear statement of conditions as they exist today in Mexico, with relation to the understanding or lack of understanding between the peoples of the two republics, has been read with a great deal of satisfaction, and I hasten to say that upon further suggestion I will be only too glad to lend my personal aid in the manner to be suggested.

"Thanking you for your courteous letter, I am."

M. Schmidt, Schmidt Lithograph Company, San Francisco, Calif.

"Of course, the approaching of the American and Mexican peoples, and an understanding between them, is not only desirable, but a necessity. Frankly speaking, I believe the absence of this friendly feeling is more the fault of ours, who right down in our hearts are considering ourselves superior to the Mexicans in most every respect. But are we justified in doing so? It may sound strange to American ears when I repeat as my own experience the statement made to me by large numbers of newly made friends, over there, who were familiar with both countries, **that personal safety was far greater in Mexico than in our own country.** * * *

"What impressed me further was that in spite of the almost total destruction of manufacturing and agricultural enterprises by ten years of revolution, they never see any money except copper, silver, and gold—no paper promises. * * *

"It would lead me too far to describe results of my numerous interviews with Mexican business men—particularly the German element. Their strong influence in Mexican affairs is perhaps best illustrated by their three very extensive and modern up-to-date German clubs—comprising large buildings containing first-class restaurants, libraries, theatrical stages, bowling alleys, billiards, dance halls, etc. Compare this to the one Mexico City's American Club consisting of a rented few rooms, and then think that we are their next door neighbor. Strangers almost instead of close friends.

"Mexico is known to be a country rich in minerals and other natural assets, including cheap labor, and is awaiting, now that revolutions have stopped, the hands of capital and enterprise. Who shall be the leader? If we do not stop sneering and agitating, Europeans will reap that rich harvest offered to, but declined by, us."

Louis Housmann, New Orleans, La.

"I believe the people there are in a receptive mood to have amicably adjusted friendly relations with other countries, and believe the present Mexican Government will be successful in establishing better conditions there and with other countries."

Jerome R. George, Worcester, Mass.

"I have been in Mexico but once and then only for a few weeks. I do not feel that I know a great deal about the country or the people, but I am quite free to confess that when I was there last March I was greatly surprised and pleased with what I saw—particularly the Mexican people.

"On every hand I saw evidence of a sincere desire on the part of the Mexican people to establish business and personal relations with the people of the United States. I found the Mexican people of all classes courteous to strangers and considerate

of each other. Neither in the city nor in the country did I see any conduct on the part of the Mexicans that could be criticized by any one. It seemed to me that in their customs and manners they could teach us a good deal here in the States.

"I consider Mexico City one of the finest cities I have ever seen. The city streets were well paved and well kept. There seemed to be approximately as many automobiles there as in any of the cities of the States.

"I find that comparatively few Americans have visited Mexico and that as a consequence the people in the northern part of the United States know much less about Mexico than they know about the various countries of Europe and Asia.

"I have been following conditions in Mexico as well as possible, and I have a rather strong impression that Obregon is capable of maintaining law and order. This is something that is not too well done in many parts of the United States. * * *

"I see no reason whatever why full political and commercial relations cannot be re-established. The United States should be strong enough to protect the interests of its citizens in Mexico and reasonable enough not to defend any citizen who willfully violates the laws or hospitality of another country."

R. J. Morrell, Treasurer, Rivers Brothers Co., Wholesale Produce, Los Angeles, Calif.

"In answer to your letter of July 21st, will say that all of our dealings with the Mexican people have been very satisfactory, and we feel that most of the trouble comes up on account of not understanding how to deal with them. * * *

"We think there is a great field in Mexico and if the different Americans go at the business in the proper way, think they will have no trouble whatsoever.

"When the writer made a trip down there, they treated the party royally and could not do enough for us, showing that they were anxious for our trade. * * * Most every one that the writer met informed him that they were anxious for Americans to come in there and settle and also wanted to do all business possible with them."

J. W. Souther, San Francisco, Calif. "Addressed to Hon. Samuel M. Shortridge, U. S. Senator from California"

"I take the liberty of addressing you relative to the Mexican situation, feeling that an unbiased opinion from one who has visited that country twice since the first of this year and who has first hand knowledge of conditions there would be of assistance to you in your deliberations upon this vital question.

"I have no interests in Mexico whatsoever, therefore my purpose in addressing you is not a mercenary one, but simply a desire to correct, if possible, erroneous reports promulgated by unreliable publications and by those whose personal interests would benefit by such reports.

"I have interviewed bankers, business men, foreign consuls and others and their universal opinion is that if President Obregon received the proper and just support of our country, Mexico will experience a revival of business and consequent prosperity, which naturally will reflect to this country, only felt during the regime of Porfirio Diaz, in fact, to quote two very prominent business men ad verbatim: 'We consider the present President a second Diaz.'

"I have met the General casually and feel that he is absolutely sincere in his desire to uplift his people and cement friendly relations with this country. It was a most agreeable surprise to me upon my first visit to Mexico to find an utter lack of disrespect to the American, and I can truthfully state from the time we, the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce excursion, crossed the border at New Laredo, Mexico, and during our stay in that country, not one of the party suffered any discourtesy whatsoever; on the contrary, we were treated with the utmost respect and consideration.

"I experienced similar treatment upon my recent visit to Mexico City, from whence I have just returned, and I may add I expect to return there the latter part of this month with nothing in view other than to await developments and investments provided equitable relations are established between the two republics, which undoubtedly would inure to the mutual benefit of both countries."

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Charles P. Vogel, Secretary, The Third (Regular) Division Society, The Marne Division, Milwaukee Branch, Wisconsin

"I think Obregon is headed in the right direction, and if some of our American interests do not try to force him to show his hand prematurely, which would cause too many factions to be turned against him before he was strong enough to handle them all, he will set up a government in the southern republic which can be relied upon."

Alan P. Gilmour, Asociacion Internacional de California (Latin American Trade Bureau), Los Angeles, Calif.

" * * * Our Bureau is doing what it can to counteract the pernicious propaganda that is endeavoring to thwart recognition of the present stable and friendly administration in Mexico City. We hope that your and our efforts will eventually meet with success, and that the powerful mercenary interests that are now endeavoring to promote strife and cause intervention will be signally defeated."

Robert L. Morris, Jr., President, Austin Machinery Corporation of Louisiana, Inc., New Orleans, La.

"I have traveled all over Mexico and know conditions there very well. I do not hesitate to say that the press in this country do Mexico a rank injustice and create a false impression of that country among our people and our Government officials. * * *

"I know President Obregon personally and regard him as a great and just man, a thorough patriot, acting for the best interests of all concerned and is accomplishing wonderful results considering the heavy handicaps before him.

"I am going to Mexico tomorrow and will travel from the Isthmus of Tehuantepec to the Rio Grande and will feel just as safe there as I would in this country."

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